

The British Occupational Hygiene Society  
Faculty of Occupational Hygiene

**PROFICIENCY MODULE SYLLABUS REFRESHER COURSE**

**P402R - Refurbishment and Demolition  
Buildings Surveys with Full Access Sampling for Asbestos**

**Aim:** This refresher module is designed to improve the knowledge in the surveying of buildings for the presence of Asbestos and any necessary bulk sampling with full access. [HSG 264 Refurbishment or Demolition] (1)

Candidates must have previously passed either proficiency Module P402 or hold the Certificate of Competence in Asbestos.

Content:	Topic	Time Allocation
	<b>1 Revision of Legislative Requirements</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>2 Revision of Asbestos in Buildings</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>3 Preparation for Full Access Surveys</b>	<b>45%</b>
	<b>4 Conducting Full Access Surveys</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>5 Reporting Surveys</b>	<b>10%</b>

**Note:** Reference is made in this syllabus to HSE guidance or other documentation. This may not be the most up-to-date relevant publications from HSE/other sources and is intended as guidance for candidates only.

**1 Revision of Legislative Requirements (5%)**

Revise the requirements for management of asbestos in buildings under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and the Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006) and the associated approved code of practice (5). Discuss changes and their implication from the new regulations.

**2 Revision of Asbestos in Buildings (10%)**

*Types and Uses of Asbestos in Buildings*

Revise the three types of asbestos which have found significant commercial use (amosite, chrysotile and crocidolite) in relation to sprayed and thermal insulation, insulating boards, coatings, cement products and other reinforced products (eg. vinyl tiles, roofing felts) commonly used in building construction.

Revise the full range of health effects ranging from the benign (pleural plaques) to the terminal (mesothelioma) in the light of results from epidemiological studies carried out on asbestos workers.

Revise the uses and application and composition of other asbestos products likely to be used or found inside buildings on plant, machinery or domestic appliances (eg. textiles, friction materials, seals, gaskets etc.)

**3 Preparation for Full Access Surveys (45%)**

Discuss how to plan, organise and conduct full access surveys including the need to involve the client in this process. What parameters need to be assessed and recorded during the survey, i.e. location, product type, accessibility, condition, surface treatment.

Discuss the importance of the requirements for the initial walk through survey and the need to produce a survey plan.

Discuss the evaluation of access needs. Working at heights, access to electrical facilities, access through panels and ceilings. Discuss the need for enclosures during the survey.

Discuss the need for other skills required as part of survey [electrician, gas fitter plumber, structural engineer, licensed removal contractor (9) etc.]

Revise the various Safety precautions required during survey work including an initial risk assessment, PPE/RPE requirements (3) (4) and the use of decontamination equipment (9).

#### **4 Conducting Full Access Surveys (30%)**

Revise sampling strategies for all types of asbestos containing materials i.e. spray coatings, pipe insulation, insulating board, ceiling tiles, cement materials.

Revise fully the techniques used and precautions required when collecting bulk samples. Make reference to HSE (1), (8) guidance on sampling.

Discuss the importance of field notes, drawings/sketches and photographs whilst carrying out full access surveys.

Discuss the construction of enclosures (8) for survey purposes and the use of decontamination procedures including use of installed decontamination units.

Discuss the need for areas to be vacated when carrying out refurbishment or demolition surveys including segregating areas to achieve this, if necessary, and the precautions required if the area is to be reoccupied afterwards.

Revise, for buildings/premises that are to continue in use, the different assessments that are required and how these help determine control actions. Outline the ongoing management actions necessary to minimise exposure to identified asbestos in buildings i.e. maintain register, monitor condition, label, restrict access, inform, train, define and use safe systems of work, operate a permit to work system.

Revise common errors in the survey and risk assessment process.

#### **5 Reporting Surveys (10%)**

Discuss the presentation of survey results. The format of the report should aim to be client orientated in a form that can be readily used. The client needs to be aware of the survey caveats but these should be site specific and not generic and must be agreed to by the client. The effect of imposing restrictions on the survey by either the surveyor or the client should be discussed.

**Educational Objectives** The student must understand the principles of and requirements for full access asbestos surveys.

#### **References**

- (1) HSE Guidance HSG 264 (2010) Asbestos: The survey guide
- (2) Asbestos and Man-Made Mineral Fibres in Buildings Practical Guidance, Thomas Telford DETR (1999)
- (3) HSE Guidance Note HSG 53 (1998) The Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Equipment
- (4) HSE Guidance INDG 288 (1999). Selection of Suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment for Work with Asbestos
- (5) HSC Control of Asbestos Regulation 2006 and it's Approved Code of Practice
- (6) HSE Guidance Note HSG 227 (2002) Comprehensive Guide to Managing Asbestos in Premises

- (7) HSE Guidance INDG 223 (2001) Managing Asbestos in Workplace Premises
- (8) HSE Guidance HSG248 Asbestos: The Analyst's guide for sampling, analysis and clearance procedures
- (9) HSE Guidance HSG247 Asbestos the Licensed Contractors Guide

### Course Length

It is envisaged that this course will be conducted over 1 day which includes the examination. This course will require 6 hours' study time.

### Course Examination/Assessment

~~25 short answer questions to be answered in 75 minutes. The assessment will consist of a 45-minute short answer, written examination paper comprising 25 questions.~~